People Addicted to Chewing of Tobacco

947. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that according to national surveys, there are over 100 million people addicted to chewing of tobacco in India;

(b) if so, how many of them are women and those under 25 years of age;

(c) whether Government are committed to protect people from the ill-effects of tobacco; and

(d) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Based on a nationwide survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization in 1993-94 and projected population for the year 1996, India has approximately 96 million people using tobaco in smokeless form. Approximately 30 million Indian Women use tobacco in smokeless form. Users of smokeless tobacco in the age group 10—24 years are about 11 million.

(c) and (d) The Committee on Subordinate Legislation (Tenth Lok Sabha) in its 22nd Report had made several recommendations primarily to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products. The Government is examining these recommendations and the drafts legislation is under consideration of the Government.

Legislation to reduce Tobacco Consumption

948. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive legislation to control and reduce the use of tobacco in India is on anvil;